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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2013**

## Seeking Owner of Black and White, Pit Bull-Type Dog; Child Bitten in Riverwalk Park in Frederick City

**FREDERICK, MD** – The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) received a report today from Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) that an 8 year old was bitten by an unidentified dog on September 5, 2013 around 3:30 pm in Riverwalk Park at Fredericktowne Village off Schifferstadt Boulevard. The FCHD needs to locate the owner of the dog so that the bite victim may avoid receiving unnecessary post-exposure rabies vaccinations.

The FCAC Officer advised that the unidentified dog (black and white, Pit Bull-type) was being walked by its owner. The owner was an adult female with a stroller. Anyone within the area who has information about the owner's identity is asked to contact the FCHD at 301-600-1717 or FCAC at 301-600-1544.

George Keller, Director for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services advises the public, "To protect your family from possible rabies exposure, do not touch or play with wild or stray animals and make sure that your pets are currently vaccinated."

Rabies is a viral disease that infects mostly mammals (warm-blooded animals who nurse their young) and is spread by the saliva of the infected animal. Human cases of rabies are fatal if untreated. Symptoms of rabies in animals can include fear of water, limping, salivating, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime.

If you or someone in your family is bitten or scratched by a dog or cat, you should contact FCAC for assistance at 301-600-1544. Please attempt to obtain contact information from the animal owner so that appropriate action can be taken.

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